UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/917
14 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 68

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 13 May 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs on the decision of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe devoted to Bosnia and Herzegovina, of 12 May 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 68.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Statement of the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia on the decision of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe devoted to Bosnia and Herzegovina of 12 May 1992

The decision taken today by the extraordinary meeting of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials in Helsinki is the result of a compromise reached after long and arduous negotiations over the the past few days on the future status and continued membership of Yugoslavia in this pan-European forum. As a country that initiated the convening of CSCE and actively participated in all phases of the CSCE process so far, Yugoslavia finds it hard to accept the growing tendencies to transform the CSCE from a forum of dialogue, cooperation and confidence into a forum for accusations and punishment. It is hard to accept that decisions taken by consensus, as one of the basic postulates on which the CSCE has been built from the very outset, are being questioned. It was their absolute application that distinguished the CSCE from other institutions. This principle is now being violated, and by strict compliance with the decisions of the Prague Document permitting the application of the new formula "consensus minus one", Yugoslavia is being deprived of its right to take part in the adoption of decisions on questions relating to crises, whether in its present or former territory.

It is particularly painful that such a decision has been reached in Helsinki, the city where 17 years ago, when the Final Act was signed, a decision was taken that Yugoslavia and its capital, Belgrade, should host the first CSCE Follow-Up Meeting. This decision was also a sign of recognition to Yugoslavia and its delegation for their overall efforts in the work on the adoption of the Final Act of CSCE, the fundamental European document, which was the forerunner of all subsequent changes.

It is important that the fact that Yugoslavia still exists has been taken into account and that exclusivity has not prevailed. Yugoslavia especially appreciates the efforts of those who tried to prevent the imposition of exclusivity. The text of the adopted Declaration is not fair. Yugoslavia could neither accept it nor prevent its adoption, taking into account paragraph 16 (consensus minus one) of the Prague Document 1992.